



Countywide Services Agency

Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights & Measures  
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**County of Sacramento**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 25, 2012

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## **Japanese Beetles Reappear in Fair Oaks**

**Informational meeting scheduled Wednesday, June 27**

Four Japanese beetles have been detected since June 6, 2012 in the Fair Oaks area of Sacramento County, in the vicinity of Greenback Lane and Fair Oaks Boulevard. This is the same area of the county where the destructive insect was detected and treated in 2011. The 2012 finds have triggered continued treatments for this summer. One of the beetles was detected on a property at the edge of the 2011 treatment area resulting in the area being expanded by approximately 23 properties.

The treatments will be carried out by California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) employees and a private pest control contractor hired by CDFA. The foliar treatments (using Tempo and Sevin SL) have already commenced in the 2011 treatment area. There are currently plans for five treatments throughout the summer. A one-time soil treatment using Merit G will be applied in order to eradicate the larval stage in the soil as well as the adults. The Agricultural Commissioner's pesticide use enforcement staff will randomly monitor some of the applications. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR), which approves pesticides for use in California, will provide environmental monitoring during the treatment.

Due to the expansion of the treatment area, an informational meeting is planned similar to the meeting held in 2011 for residents in the affected area. Residents and anyone with questions about the treatment program are invited to attend.

**Wednesday, June 27, 2012 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Orangevale Recreation and Park District Meeting Room  
6826 Hazel Avenue, Orangevale, 95662**

Representatives from the Sacramento County Department of Agriculture, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR), and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) will be on hand to answer questions.

The beetles were detected a month earlier in the year than in 2011 and rapid treatment response will increase the effectiveness of the treatment, said Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner Juli Jensen. "The good news is that the 2012 finds are still right in the small local area where all the previous finds have been. This indicates that we are working in the ground zero area of the infestation and that increases the success rate of the eradication program. Residents in this area should not move plants with soil to keep this infestation from spreading throughout the County."

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The Japanese beetle is a voracious invasive species that has caused extensive damage in the eastern U.S. Japanese beetles, native to Japan, generally infest the Eastern Seaboard, spreading south to Alabama and west to Mississippi. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Japanese beetle is the most widespread turf-grass pest in the United States and expenditures to control this pest are estimated at more than \$460 million a year. The beetle can also cause extensive damage to ornamental plants like roses or cut flowers. Adult beetles feed on the leaves, flowers, and fruit of more than 300 species of plants; while larvae, also known as grubs, live in the soil and feed on plant roots, especially those of grasses. An adult Japanese beetle is a little less than 1/2 inch long and has a shiny, metallic-green body and bronze-colored outer wings, with small tufts of white hair along the sides of its body, under the edges of its wings.

The public can help by not moving plant material, cooperating with agricultural officials and reporting suspicious bugs to the **CDFA PEST HOTLINE at 1-800-491-1899**. For more information, visit CDFA's website at [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov).

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